

Marinette and Menomonie Notes

By Charles E. Brown, April 27-29, 1927.

Marinette

"The principal Indian village was on the Michigan side of the Menomonie River. There were other villages along the river. Fishing was their livelihood. A battle between the Menominee and Chippewa took place on "Burial Ground Point" near the Menominee end of the Menominee and Marinette bridge. This was due to the Indians building a dam across the river near its mouth and thus preventing the sturgeon from running up the river.

In May 1670 Father Claude Allouez built a mission here [in Marinette] and called it St. Michael.

Local chiefs were:-

Grand chief, Wa can na or Mud Turtle
Pe wah te noog, The Whirlwind
O ka ma ka to, The King's Word
Sha wa na go shiek, Yellow Sky
Tomah
O sau wah min, Yellow Dog
Wah no ko, High
Chi chi quan no ah, Shaved Tail
Pa me wah pome ma, The Man at Quick Sight

Marinette and Menominee, Art Publishing Co., 1887.

Colter's Slough Site

This village site is located on the Wisconsin side of the Menominee River just beyond the M. & M. Paper Co. plant and lumber yard at a place where a slough extends inland from the river. This is a well known former Menomini Indian camp ground the Indian continuing to camp long after the pioneer white settlers came to this region. The old camp ground was on both banks of the slough which is somewhat marshy, at least a city block in width at its mouth and extends inland for an eighth of a mile. The river opposite the

*see Wis. Archeo., V. 18-3 (Aug. 18, 1919), p. 22 for
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mouth of the slough is about 350 feet wide, above it broadens into a lake at least an eighth of a mile in width.

The old village site is largely in use as a pasture at this time and its evidences of former Indian occupancy hidden from view except in a small number of places. A group of picturesque pine trees stands on a portion of it near the river road. This part of the site is elevated from 6 to 18 feet above the road and the river.

On the part of this site opposite the river dam and south of the mouth of the slough is a sand pit at the top and sides of which are scattered hundreds of burned and broken hearth stones of fist size and smaller, numerous flint chips and fragments, pieces of pottery, broken animal bones, bits of clam shell valves, and other village refuse. Here the writer also found a small awl 1-1 1/4 inches in length and pointed at each end, and fragments of spiral sheet copper rings. A small chipped yellow flint object is probably an Indian made gun flint. Flint implements have been found here by local collectors.

In a number of sand pits and blows west of this place hearthstones and flint refuse also occurs although not so abundantly as here. They also occur in sand pits on the north bank of the slough.

The variety of material in use on the Colter's Slough site appears to have been of a more diversified character than that of other sites examined along the river in the two cities.

White quartz-- many chips and fragments
 Light grey quartzite
 Blue hornstone
 Light greyish and tan flint of a poor quality--numerous
 White flint -- common
 Greenish grey flint -- similar to that found on some Green Bay sites.
 Other flint -- a few pieces.

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The few potsherds found were ornamented with twisted cord impressions and trailed impressions made by drawing the point of a blunt implement across the clay. All of these reddish brown sherds were tempered with crushed stone.

Riverside Park Site

Another historic Indian camp ground extended along the river banks in Marinette from the present site of the public library, Mission Point, westward to near the second M. & M. Paper Co. Mill. The site of this early camp grounds along Riverside Avenue is occupied by stately residences and along the river bank by Riverside Park. Despite this occupation a few flint chips and fragments were picked up in shrubbery plots, at the bases of trees and among the grass in the park.

Flint chips were found in numbers at a bare spot on the river bank opposite the intersection of N. Raymond Street with Riverside Avenue. At this place the top of the bank is from 4 to 5 feet above the water. At a distance of 150 feet west of this place is a spring, no longer very active, its site marked by a depression and small willow tree.

Flint chips and many hearthstones, and some clam shell fragments were also found on grassy lots at the south west corner of Park street and the avenue. Also on the river bank opposite this place which is only a short distance east of the M. & M. Paper Co. Mill.

The old Farnsworth trading post is reported to have been located about 100 feet west of the C.M. & St. P.R.R. bridge in front of No. 2115 residence on Riverside Avenue. The Hattie street bridge is just beyond. A river ford from the Michigan shore crossed to this place.

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The flint chips collected along Riverside Avenue were of white, greyish and bluish grey colors. A single broken flint blank and several white quartz chips were also found.

Early Fur Traders

First known whiteman was Louis Chappiere, a Canadian French voyageur in the employ of the American Fur Co. who erected his round log building on a spot where now (1876) stands boarding house of M.R. Mfg. Co., as early as 1794 or 6 and remained until 1822, when he was dispossessed by the Indians in favor of William Jacobs, who occupied the site for many years, uniting with Marinette Jacobs, and thru whom he acquired considerable wealth as an Indian trader.

Marinette Jacobs, from whom city derives its name, was born at Post Lake, near the source of Post River, one of the principal tributaries of the Peshtigo River, in 1793. Marinette, as she was regularly called was married to John B. Jacobs and with whom she lived on this river for some years previous to 1822. He left the river and she remaining with Wm. Farnsworth, who in turn left her and the river and settled in Sheboygan. She had several children by each husband. Manuscript by Dr. J. J. Sherman, 1876.

Her father was Barthelemy Chevalier and he was for some time a resident of Green Bay. Her mother was a Chippewa woman. Her name is probably an abbreviation of Marie Antoinette.

Mission Point

In Marinette on the public library grounds is a wooden marker bearing the legend

Site of Mission Point

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Site of Mission Point
St. Michael Mission
Founded by Father Allouez, 1670
Marker Placed by Menominee Chapter
D.A.R. ----- 1919

Water Street Village Site

In early days the Menomini also camped along the Menomini River bank at different points between the mouth of the river and Mission Point.

This region is now largely occupied by residences, other buildings and manufacturing establishments. An examination of the river bank, unoccupied lots, street ends and gardens along Water Street was made and a few evidences of former Indian occupation thus found.

A few light grey flint and quartz chips were found on the surface of the Lauerman Athletic Field at 8th Avenue and Water Street, Also several white quartz chips in gardens at 5th Avenue. Elsewhere some chips of a grey clouded and of a flesh colored flint were picked up. Hearthstones protruded from the river bank in several places. A number of residents have found flint arrowpoints and hammer stones in gardens and yards. The time has passed when much information concerning this village and camps can be recovered from the soil.

Boom Island Cemetery

Boom island, an island of small extent lies in the river opposite the western part of the Riverside Avenue camp ground. It is crossed by the C.M. & St. P. and C.& N.W.R.R. embankments.

On the western part of this island was a Menomini Indian cemetery which some residents of Marinette still remember.

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The graves were then covered with wooden grave shelter houses and some of them with boulders. A visit was made to this site and abundant evidence of the digging of persons for burials found. Some of this digging was done two summers ago by two boys. A human skull found here at this time is in the high school museum. Some glass beads were also found in these graves. Other persons have disinterred human bones here in past years. This site should be protected against further digging by relic hunters.

An examination of this island shows that it was probably also an Indian camp site. Hearthstones and a single white quartz and several flint chips were found. Undoubtedly others are beneath the sod.

Menomini

Country Club Site

On the Menominee side of the river evidences of an Indian camp site occur on the Country Club grounds and the lands beyond it. Mr. E. W. LeRoy of Marinette years ago collected Indian arrow-points and other implements here.

Trail Cemetery

A few fireplace stones were found in gardens along Ogden Avenue. At the northwest corner of Ogden Avenue and Bellevue is a small park area in which is a huge granite boulder on which is an artistic bronze tablet bearing this inscription

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This
Tablet Marks The
Bay de Noquet
Trail
Of the Menomonee
and other Indian Tribes
U.S. Mail Runners
and Earliest Fur Traders
Also Indian Cemetery

Placed by
Menominee Chapter
Daughters of the
American Revolution
1917

Opposite Mission Point the river is three city blocks wide.
The Middle Bridge here extends across the stream.

Ogden Avenue Village Site

In a small sand pit across Bridge Street, east of the Trail Monument fireplace stones and flint chips were found in small numbers.

Beyond this place other wigwam sites were indicated along the river bank and in vacant lots in the rear along Ogden Avenue as far east as Chandler Street by numbers of hearthstones, flint chips, a few potsherds, and bleached animal bones. A part of this site fronts on an extensive Menomonee River marsh. In places the bank is elevated 30 or more feet above this marsh.

The flint in use on this site was:

White flint
Blue hornstone
Flesh colored flint
Grey flint

Flesh colored flint
Mottled grey and white flint
Reddish quartzite

The potsherds were of a reddish ^{brown} color ornamented with twisted cord patterns and others with deep trailed parallel lines.

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Bridge Island

Flint chips and fragments were also very abundant on the higher ground of an island lying between the foregoing site and the middle of the river. This site is no longer entirely surrounded by water. It takes its name from being crossed by Bridge Street the street crossing to the Marinette side of the river. This sandy island is elevated at least 15 feet above the water at its highest part. Fireplace stones, broken clam shell valves and several pieces of cord-marked, crushed-stone tempered pottery were found here.

The flint worked here by the Indian arrowmakers was of light grey, bluish grey and tan colors of a fair quality, probably obtained from some local source.

Local Indian Implements

In the museum in the Menominee Public Library is a collection of about 50 arrow and spearpoints and blanks presented by A. L. Sawyer, probably largely local. These are of ordinary stemmed, notched and barbed forms chiefly made of blue hornstone (one spearpoint) and of light brownish and greyish flint. There is a broken large quartzite knife (about half) several arrows are of dark brown quartzite, two others of light brown and greyish quartzite, a knife 7 in. long, is made of very dark grey flint.

In the high school museum at Marinette are the following Indian implements from local sites.

2 stone balls given by Prof. C. E. Winch
Grooved stone axe, groove completely encircling it, one edge concave.
5 flint arrowpoints from Lawrence Dean.
1 grey flint " " " "
Flint blank " " " "
Flint blank, from Homer McPherson
Stone celt, from Hawkins field, donor Carl Engel
24 reddish flint arrowpoints, stemmed and notched forms, Arthur Cassin